



A RESOLUTION ON RESEARCH (21/10)

WHEREAS, the mission of The George Washington University since its founding includes scholarly research¹ and the university's reputation, ranking and ability to attract talented students and faculty depend on the continued conduct of such research by undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students in collaboration with faculty; and

WHEREAS, the President and Trustees rightly set the university to aspire to preeminence as a comprehensive, global research university² and President LeBlanc has backed research at GW by maintaining University supported funds for research including the University Facilitating Fund (UFF), the Humanities Facilitating Fund, Research Enhancement Incentive Awards (REIA), full indirect return on GRA positions, and Cross Disciplinary Research Fund (CDRF) which together have been associated with consistent increases in research output; and

WHEREAS, GW has an existing portfolio of federal and non-federal grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements which are awarded to the university contingent on the institution providing continued support and oversight as required by the 2CFR200 and related federal guidance, and removing, disrupting, or weakening the basic oversight controls and ability to adhere to cost principles may jeopardize current funding and current research projects; and

WHEREAS, fairness, equity, consistency, and transparency are hallmarks in the assignment of faculty responsibilities for research, scholarship, teaching, and service; and

WHEREAS, the research ecosystem review launched by President LeBlanc found that locating research administrators in the schools was most effective; and

WHEREAS, the research ecosystem review in each of its phases noted the importance of dedicated time to the conduct of research;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY THAT

- 1) President LeBlanc be commended for his support of the university support for research including the UFF, REIA, HFF, CDRF, and full indirect return on GRA positions, which each are necessary for the continued conduct of innovative research; and

¹ <https://www.gwu.edu/university-mission-statement>

² <https://strategicplan.gwu.edu>

- 2) GW should maintain and reaffirm its investment in and commitment to research and adopt a policy of “do no harm” to the existing research infrastructure it has achieved in the last several years; and
- 3) The number of research administrators and their location whether in the schools or in central, should be determined by research and data, such as provided in the ongoing research ecosystem review, into what is most effective; and
- 4) The administration should consult with the Faculty Senate Research Committee to develop a plan to achieve a level of school-based resources for research that represents the needs of a preeminent global research university and is benchmarked against peer and aspirational institutions; and
- 5) Changes or cuts to any funding mechanism for graduate students come only after first identifying new mechanisms that will be equally or more effective; and
- 6) Research-related workload policies be evaluated within and across the schools with formal mechanisms for faculty input as is consistent with university policies regarding shared governance; and
- 7) Any changes in support or resources contemplated by the university be implemented in such a manner that existing proposals and awards are allowed to continue under at least the level of support with which they were established and to which GW committed itself at the time of establishment or submission, in particular with regard to graduate student tuition support and indirect cost return; and
- 8) Recommend that any future actions be fully discussed and analyzed by the Faculty Senate Research Committee, Associate Deans for Research, Deans and OVPR Administration before decisions are made.

Faculty Senate Research Committee
July 24, 2020

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate
August 14, 2020